

BEN PEREZ OF ROSENBERG, TX,  
HEB EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION  
AWARDS

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ben Perez of Rosenberg, TX on being named a finalist in the HEB Excellence in Education Awards Program. Mr. Perez serves as the principal of Ray Elementary School in Rosenberg, TX.

Mr. Perez began his career as a teacher's aide at the age of eighteen while simultaneously taking courses at the University of Houston-Downtown. After serving both as an elementary school teacher at Pink Elementary and as assistant principal at Ray Elementary, Mr. Perez was named principal after years of hard work and commitment to his school and his students. Mr. Perez was selected for this award due to his tireless work ethic, educational accomplishments, and passion for teaching. Both his fellow teachers and students are excited about his nomination, and eagerly await the program's decision.

Mr. Perez is one of five exceptional elementary school principals who were nominated for this award, and the winner will be announced in Austin on May 2. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mr. Perez for being recognized as an outstanding principal.

HONORING CHIEF DOUGLAS  
DORTENZIO ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2015*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the deepest respect and admiration that I rise today to join the Town of Wallingford and particularly its police force in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Douglas Dortenzio as he celebrates his retirement after twenty-four years of dedicated service as Police Chief and a forty-two year career in law enforcement. His retirement marks the end of a distinguished career in law enforcement and the Department will simply not be the same without him.

Chief Dortenzio began his career in the New Haven Police Department. During his eighteen year career with the NHPD, he rose through the ranks and was a major when he was selected to serve as Chief of the Wallingford Department. For the last twenty-four years he has served the Department, his officers, and the Wallingford community with honor and distinction.

Throughout his career, Chief Dortenzio dedicated himself to ensuring the protection and safety of the Wallingford community. He is a staunch believer in the concept of community policing and under his tenure he has focused the Department's efforts towards building a strong relationship between the Department and the community. As head of the Wallingford Police Department, Chief Dortenzio made

the men and women of the Department his highest priority—always ensuring that they had access to the most current technologies and equipment. He has always fought for the resources, programs, and services he believes are in the best interest of the members of his Department and would most benefit the community.

Chief Dortenzio's efforts to create a parents' guide for sober teen celebrations have been recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and he has been involved in its Red Ribbon Campaigns and National Sobriety Checkpoint Week. He has served as a member of the State of Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council, the State of Connecticut Emergency Management & Homeland Security Coordinating Council, the U.S. Attorney's Office Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council, and the FBI—Joint Terrorism Task Force. He is a past President of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association and was a member of the Police Chiefs' delegation invited to Washington, D.C. to watch then President Bill Clinton sign a national crime bill.

With all of his work, at the Department and in the community, Chief Dortenzio still made time to be of great assistance to myself and my staff. He has been an invaluable resource to us all and I want to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation for all of his many years of support and friendship.

Chief Douglas Dortenzio has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment and has left an indelible mark on the Town of Wallingford—he will be missed. As he celebrates his retirement, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join his wife Pat and daughter, Christine, as well as family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCREDITA-  
TION OF THE ST. SIMONS LAND  
TRUST

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Simons Land Trust for becoming accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. The St. Simons Land Trust's accreditation status is the result of a rigorous and lengthy process, and I am proud of their efforts to meet such high standards for private, non-profit land conservation.

Since 2001, the St. Simons Land Trust has acquired and permanently preserved close to 776 acres on St. Simons Island in southeast Georgia. Cannon's Point Preserve, which contains 609 acres of maritime forest, salt marshes, and tidal creeks, is one of the many successful preservation projects of the Trust. With its new accredited status, the St. Simons Land Trust may display with pride a special seal that shows it fulfills national standards for excellence in land conservation.

The work of the St. Simons Land Trust helps to permanently protect wildlife habitat, water quality, green space, working farms and ranches, and healthy communities. By achieving accreditation, the Trust has demonstrated

its commitment to conservation both today and long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commend the St. Simons Land Trust for their latest accomplishment. I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of the St. Simons Land Trust to helping preserve the beauty of St. Simons Island and southeast Georgia. I would like to thank the Trust for their devotion to my district, and wish them the best with their future projects.

**ZIGGI'S COFFEE**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ziggi's Coffee for receiving the 2014 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses that have brought new employment to Commerce City. Ziggi's Coffee opened its first drive-thru and café combination in December 2014, adding 15 employees at the location.

With their growth in Commerce City, they also have a strong commitment to community involvement. Ziggi's donates to hundreds of causes and supports local schools. Their commitment is year round, raising thousands of dollars through their annual back-to-school fundraiser and donating hundreds of gift cards to local nonprofit organizations throughout the year.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ziggi's Coffee for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CON-  
SISTENT, EXEMPLARY COMMU-  
NITY SERVICE DISPLAYED BY  
CITIZEN SCHOOLS FOR TWENTY  
YEARS

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2015*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Citizen Schools for providing twenty years of outstanding community service and educational enrichment programs. Citizen Schools offers extended learning programming for middle school-aged students in urban, at-risk areas by partnering with public middle schools. Citizens Schools offers free educational classes and programs to urban academic institutions, giving students a wealth of choices during the important after school hours.

Citizen Schools was founded in 1995 by Eric Schwarz and Ned Rimer. Since then, the organization has offered educational opportunities for children who cannot otherwise afford them. The results are impressive. According to Citizen Schools, 71% of students involved in these programs graduate high school and many of those go on to post-secondary institutions. These impressive results are a combination of careful program planning, and the tireless efforts of volunteers who help teach these